

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 OMB-01 /068 W  
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R 052314Z OCT 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9656

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, PN, XM, US

SUBJECT: 31ST GA: PLENARY ITEM 117: PARAGRAPH ON CANAL  
NEGOTIATIONS IN RESOLUTION ON AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS

REF: A) USUN 4135; B) STATE 246861

1. ON OCTOBER 5, GOVERNOR SCRANTON DISCUSSED THE PARAGRAPH DEALING WITH THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS (REF A) BEING CIRCULATED IN THE LA GROUP WITH PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD. IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S REMARKS ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN TALKING POINTS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, BOYD SAID HE THOUGHT THE PARAGRAPH IN QUESTION WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THE OAS WORDING. BOYD CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT PERHAPS THE BEST THING TO DO WAS WAIT AND SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT PANAMANIAN PERM REP ILLUECA TO SEE THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP HOLD OFF ANY ACTION ON THE WHOLE AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS RESOLUTION UNTIL MID-NOVEMBER.

2. PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF B, MISSION OFFICER HAD DISCUSSED THE PARAGRAPH ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN REF B WITH THE FOLLOWING LA DELEGATIONS: ARGENTINA-SENIOR MISSION OFFICER IS LOOKING INTO THE QUESTION;

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COSTA RICA -COSTA RICAN PERM REP SALAZAR IS

STRONGLY OPPOSED TO INCLUSION OF THE PARAGRAPH, AND WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SEEK ITS DELETION. HE CANNOT, HOWEVER, HE SAID, SPEAK FIRST ON THE SUBJECT BECAUSE OF CENTRAL AMERICAN SOLIDARITY; ELSALVADOR-DEPUTY PERM REP TOLD US THE LA GROUP HAS AS YET TAKEN NO DECISION ON THE PARAGRAPH AND THAT IN HIS VIEW IT IS BEST IGNORED; GUATEMALA-PERM REP FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE PARAGRAPH IS INAPPROPRIATE AND WILL SEEK ITS DELETION; SURINAM-DEPUTY PERM REP HALFHUID WAS UNINFORMED ABOUT THE PARAGRAPH BUT SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH HIS PERM REP; COLOMBIA-SENIOR MISSION OFFICER FEELS STRONGLY THE INCLUSION OF THE PARAGRAPH IS COMPLETELY INAPPROPRIATE AND WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH COLOMBIAN PERM REP ZEA.

3. MISSION OFFICER ALSO DISCUSSED THE PARAGRAPH, IN THE CONTEXT OF A LONG CONVERSATION, WITH PANAMANIAN DEPUTY PERM REP RIOS, WHO IS AWARE, HE SAID, OF THE POTENTIAL DANGER THAT INCLUSION OF THE PARAGRAPH ENTAILS.

4. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF BOYD'S PROMISED ACTION TO HOLD OFF LA GROUP CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION UNTIL MID-NOVEMBER, USUN BELIEVES WE SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITH INFORMAL DEMARCHES ON THIS SUBJECT FOR THE MOMENT. FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH BOYD ON OCTOBER 7 AND BOYD'S GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT ON OCTOBER 8, WE SHOULD HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT PANAMA HAS IN STORE FOR US DURING THIS GA AND HOW TO PROCEED.

5. USUN BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE SECRETARY TO CONVEY HIS SATISFACTION TO BOYD DURING THEIR MEETING AT BOYD'S DECISION TO HOLD OFF ACTION ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS CONTAINING A PARAGRAPH ON THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH COULD HAVE OPENED THE DOOR TO EXTREMIST STATEMENTS BY THIRD COUNTRIES AND DAMAGE

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PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS, AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT BOYD WILL TAKE STEPS TO REMOVE THE POTENTIAL DANGER BY HAVING THE PARAGRAPH DELETED. SCRANTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976USUNN04211  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760376-0439  
**From:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761079/aaaacqsu.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 USUN NEW YORK 4135, 76 STATE 246861  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 31ST GA: PLENARY ITEM 117: PARAGRAPH ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS IN RESOLUTION ON AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, XM, US, UNGA, (SCRANTON, WILLIAM W), (BOYD GUARDIA, AQUILINO EDGARDO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006